

## DITMARS GOT SOME KATYDIDS

## ASK THE NEIGHBORS IF HE DIDN'T, TEN KATYDIDS.

These Shill Edged Stripes Divided the Shuddering Night into Small Particles of Sleeplessness. Nobody Pleased Except Miss Gladys, Who is 10 Years Old.

The tenant of the apartment house at 1300 Anthony avenue, the Bronx, notified Curator Raymond Ditmars of the Zoological Gardens yesterday that if he didn't remove the herd of longhorned grasshoppers he had brought home to amuse his children they would go to law. They said they didn't want to be fussy or do anything unneighborly, but another night like Friday's was unthinkable.

Mr. Ditmars told the delegation that his own family hadn't got a wink of sleep until daylight, and that Miss Gladys Ditmars, after preparing a sumptuous breakfast of lettuce leaves for the sleep suffering stragglers, would personally shift them back to their apartments in the morning. He agreed that the grasshoppers were a nuisance, but that he didn't intend to quarrel with a neighbor who did not do the upmost to remove them. The curators could produce.

So the winged troubadours are back in the gardens, which is very glad to have them. In years of experience, Director Hornaday and Curator Ditmars have learned that katydids are more difficult to acquire than Malayan sunbirds or whistlers. For some reason they have been scarce in the big park for birds and beasts, maybe because the parasite that stings their eggs, the black rolling wonder, which scientists call *Exochus mirabilis*, has been too plentiful. At any rate, since the curator began to make a collection of American insects, from the infatigable black biter, the flea no bigger than a pin point, to the giant red winged Florida grasshoppers, that are so tame and intelligent they can be taught to do tricks, the red keeper Charles Snyder says that he had caught one of them to stand on its hind legs and say "hello" to the neighbors. He wanted them because they are so distinctive. If a lion had the nose power of a katydid, he says, it could find every tree in the forest.

Mr. Ditmars knew that there were two somewhere in the neighborhood of the red katydid, but they were always too shy to come out. He had been told that they were in the garden, but he had lost his way. One day several weeks ago a friend of his who had been vacationing in Sullivan county brought to the zoo a pair of katydids. Mr. Ditmars told him how hard it was to get specimens.

"Why, there's a farm up in Sullivan county where they catch plenty of them," said the friend. "We'll do anything for money. Pay him well and you'll get your specimens."

The father wrote to the husbandman of Sullivan county and he had delivered unharmed in wind or limb. On Friday morning a good sized package arrived from Sullivan county containing six worth of katydids, winged and wingless. There were six of them in all, and all seemed to be hunky and healthy. But they never came out. Mr. Ditmars, through the kindness of the farmer, had a small cage made for them, and when they came out they were all dead. Mr. Ditmars was giving a dinner party to the curator and his wife to explain to the family what was in the box. The curator, who had been told that the katydids were a nuisance, was telling what might have been a very good story, but the katydids were all dead. The curator, who had been told that the katydids were a nuisance, was telling what might have been a very good story, but the katydids were all dead.

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## GUILTY INFATUATION ENDS

## Woman and Letter Carrier Shot Dead in Her Room at Home.

CLEVELAND, Sept. 24.—The police blame the death by bullets early this morning of Mrs. Martha Distel, mother of a son 21 years old and a daughter 18, and of Paul Mueller, father of two children, one two months old, in the bedroom of Mrs. Distel, to the infatuation of the woman and her desperation because her mother had forced from her a promise that she should not see Mueller again.

Last night Distel found her wife dying in a hall in her room, just before 2 o'clock this morning. He rushed to her door, burst it open, despite the chairs piled against it, when he heard revolver shots. He had been sleeping in a room just across the hall. His wife was alive, he told the police. She pushed him aside and refused to tell how she had been wounded. Not till then, he says, did he see the body of Mueller, with three bullet wounds in the breast, in a corner of the room, a revolver near his right hand. Mrs. Distel stated without disclosing who fired the bullets.

The police suspected a double murder for a time, but they learned that Mrs. Mary Goodman, Mrs. Distel's mother-in-law, had forced a promise from her daughter that she would not see Mueller again after last night and that Mrs. Distel yesterday had bought a revolver and cartridges.

"She could have spoken, but she died without telling me how Mueller came there. His clothes were neatly folded, and his hat was on a radiator. I have suspected for months."

Mueller was a mail carrier on the Distel route. He lived in a rooming house at home. After 10 o'clock last night the neighbors saw him kiss his wife good night and tell her he would be late coming home. Neighbors Mueller had been absent nights for months. Mrs. Mueller refused to believe the story of the tragedy for a time.

"I love him still," she cried.

## LOOKOUT FOR BRICKLAYERS.

## Meeting Today to Discuss the Mason Builders' Order.

The executive officers of the Bricklayers, Masons and Plasterers International Union will be present at the mass meeting of the thirteen unions of bricklayers in New York called for this afternoon at Grand Central Palace to discuss the situation of the bricklayers in the city.

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## GOING FOR FUR SWINDLERS

## ASSOCIATION THAT MEANS TO SEE RABBIT SKIN SOLD AS SUCH.

Considers Skunk is Dignified Enough to Be and Need Not Be "Trade Name." Alaska Seal—Muskrat Must Be Muskrat Except When It's a Terrapin.

Seeds from Commissioner Brissell's efforts to teach people to protect themselves against fraud have sprouted in a new and unexpected place, none other than the home of the legitimate skin dealer. The fur trade, since furs have come again into popularity and the demand for them has gone ahead of the market, has seen muskrat skins, for instance, once worth twenty cents, up to seventy-five cents each, down where the rat lives and gets ready to replace the terrapin on the market, there have been thrust upon the market many furs of diverse character under names quite as diverse and less genuine.

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## WESTCHESTER RUNNING DRY.

## Water Shortage: Becoming a Very Serious Matter.

MOUNT VERNON, Sept. 24.—The shortage of water throughout Westchester county is becoming a serious problem not alone to the city of New York but to all towns and municipalities in Westchester county that are dependent upon their own water supply or from water companies that have a monopoly of some streams. Most of the reservoirs are almost dry and the storage plants are being drawn upon to their limit.

The reservoirs of the city of New York in the northern part of Westchester county are far below their normal level, and all the storage plants, such as Cross River, Muscoot and Amawalk storage reservoirs, are being drawn upon to their full capacity. The big Cornell dam at Croton is also low, and although there is plenty of water in the storage reservoirs a continued drought will cause a great decrease in the water supply.

The residents of Mount Vernon are actually facing a water famine, while in White Plains and Scarsdale the question of water is becoming a serious problem. Despite the fact that the city of Yonkers uses the Saw Mill River as a source of water supply, the Health Department of New York city, through acting State Commissioner of Health Alec H. Seymour, has granted a permit to the board of trustees of the village of Hastings-on-Hudson to "discharge effluent from the proposed sewage disposal plant at Hudson Heights, in the village of Hastings-on-Hudson, into the waters of the Saw Mill River near Mount Hope station."

The permit is at which the discharge from the sewage disposal plant will be emptied into the Saw Mill River, north of the Yonkers pumping station, and it is a fair assumption that a part of the same effluent will find its way into the Yonkers river beds.

The New York Interurban Water Company has practically emptied the city of Mount Vernon of its water supply, and this has caused the town officials to call a special meeting to denounce the action of the corporation. According to latest reports, the Mount Vernon water supply is almost exhausted, and extraordinary measures have been adopted by the local water company.

In the town of Scarsdale, the water supply has been almost exhausted, and the town officials have called a special meeting to denounce the action of the corporation. According to latest reports, the Scarsdale water supply is almost exhausted, and extraordinary measures have been adopted by the local water company.

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## TRANSGRESSOR'S WAY HARD

## HUNGARIAN RELIEVED OF STOLEN MONEY HERE.

When He Wrote Home Telling His Wife to Join Him the Austrian Police Opened His Letters in That Practical Foreign Way and Promptly Got Him.

The discontinuance yesterday of suits brought in the Supreme Court by the township of Erzsébetfalva, Hungary, against Dr. Ernst Kern, alias George Kollath, former treasurer of the township, brought from counsel to the township a story of a kind Hungarian Government police that could not be duplicated here.

Morris S. Kohn, attorney for the township, said that the defaulter, whose real name is George Kollath, had been treasurer of the township for some years and that last March, when the township funds in his hands had reached \$10,000, he disappeared with the \$10,000 in cash and securities. The Hungarian police could get no track of him, but they kept watch of his wife, who had gone to a little town near by, where her grandfather, Joseph Islay, was the Mayor and the largest landholder in the county.

The police watched all letters coming to the Mayor or his granddaughter, and finally found one from the International Information Bureau at 247 Avenue A, New York, to Dr. Ernst Kern, asked the Mayor for information concerning Mrs. George Kollath. The letter contained ten kronen for the information and stated that if the information was satisfactory 300 more kronen would be sent. The police photographed this letter and sent it on to the Mayor and finally got the Mayor's reply, which told where Mrs. Kollath was living and asked information concerning George Kollath. This letter also was photographed and sent on to America.

In due time a reply came back from "Kern" to the Mayor, requesting him to deliver a letter enclosed to Mrs. George Kollath. The enclosed letter told her that Kollath had made his way to America and was living at 247 Avenue A and was conducting an information bureau for the benefit of Hungarians, and holding himself out as a lawyer. Kollath wrote that he expected to make a fortune here and said that he was sending an employee, John Zagat, to Hungary for his wife and family. Kollath told his wife to come here as the wife of Zagat and have the children call Zagat father so that there would be no trouble with the immigration authorities.

Kollath also suggested that his wife get a divorce from him in Hungary so that when she came here he could marry her under the name of Kern. This letter also was photographed and sent on to the Mayor. In it Kollath had said that Zagat would stop at the White Horse Tavern in Budapest and that he would communicate with Mrs. Kollath when he got there.

The Hungarian police watched the tavern and when Zagat arrived they arrested him. One of them then went to the residence of Mrs. Kollath and presented her with a letter from Kollath, telling her to come to America. When she arrived she was told that her husband had been arrested and that a divorce had been granted to her. She was then taken to the Mayor's office, where she was told that she was the property of the township.

The police then communicated with Alexander de Szeher, the Consul-General here, and under his instructions Kollath was arrested at 247 Avenue A on September 1. He has since been in the Tombs. When arrested he told Mr. Coker that he had no money left. Soon after he arrived he said these men came to him pretending to be detectives and immigration officers, and threatened to turn him over to the authorities unless he gave up \$3,000. Kollath said he handed over the money. Next some one showed Kollath the three story house at 247 Avenue A, and told him he could buy it for \$8,000. He paid over \$4,000 in cash and gave a mortgage for \$4,000 and then found that all he had bought was a nine year lease of the property, which is owned by the township. Under the lease he has to pay \$250 a year rent.

Kollath has agreed to waive extradition and has turned over his lease to the Hungarian authorities, and in consideration of his act in making such a concession as he could Mr. Coker said that he would not be severely punished. Mr. Coker will now bring an action to set aside the \$4,000 mortgage and is trying to find the woman who sold Kollath the lease. In the suits discontinued yesterday the township asked for the property.

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